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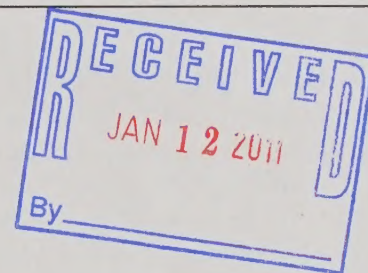
Highlights of NAHMS Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss Study

Each January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) collects cattle data on inventory, calf crop, and total death losses for State and national estimating programs. Inventory and calf crop estimates (number of head) are published in January, while cattle and calves death losses (number of head) are published annually in April via the "Meat Animals: Production, Disposition and Income" report. For the January 1992, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2010 surveys, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service provided funding for a detailed breakdown of total losses for producer-attributed cause of loss occurring the previous year. Death losses (number of head) by cause for predator and nonpredator losses were estimated and subsequently published by NASS (Cattle Death Loss, May 5, 2010).

The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2010 report provides additional analysis of cattle and calves losses in 2009 from all causes. Special emphasis was placed on nonpredator causes of loss by class of operation, such as beef, dairy, mixed, and other cattle. Operation classes were based on reported inventory. In addition, death losses by size group and region are provided, and, when possible, the 1991, 1995, 2000, and 2005 death losses are included for comparison.

Here are highlights from the NAHMS Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss report:

- The percentage of total losses due to nonpredator causes was lower on beef operations compared with other operations types. Nonpredator causes accounted for 95.8 percent of total cattle losses on beef operations in 2010, while the percentage of total losses due to nonpredator causes on other operation types was about 99 percent.
- Respiratory problems accounted for the highest percentage of nonpredator cattle losses in 2010 (26.5 percent of total nonpredator cattle losses). Other common causes of loss were "other" causes (13.8 percent) and unknown causes (12.1 percent). Weather-related causes and calving problems each accounted for about 10 percent of losses.
- The percentage of losses due to mastitis was higher on dairy operations than on beef operations (13.1 and 0.3 percent, respectively). Mastitis also accounted for 8.6 percent of losses on mixed operations. Respiratory problems accounted for over half of nonpredator losses (64.3 percent) on "other" operations; many operations in this category were feedlots, which commonly experience problems with bovine respiratory disease.
- Nonpredator causes accounted for 92.0 percent of the 2.3 million calf death losses in 2010. Overall, 5.8 percent of the U.S. calf crop was lost to nonpredator causes, with losses highest in the Northeast region (7.6 percent of the calf crop).





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- The highest percentages of nonpredator calf losses were due to respiratory problems (29.1 percent) and digestive problems (17.2 percent). Respiratory problems accounted for nearly one-half of nonpredator calf losses (49.4 percent) on “other” operations.
- Beef operations had a higher percentage of nonpredator calf losses due to weather-related causes (21.9 percent) compared with all other operation types: 4.2 percent for dairy operations, 8.6 percent for mixed operations, and 6.0 percent for “other” operations.
- Beef operations had a lower percentage of nonpredator calf losses due to digestive problems (10.4 percent) than all other operations types: 30.6 percent for dairy operations, 30.4 percent for mixed operations, and 23.2 percent for “other” operations.
- On mixed operations, the percentage of nonpredator calf losses due to calving problems ranged from 38.4 percent in the Northwest region to 5.0 percent in the Southwest region. The Southwest region also had a lower percentage of calf losses due to calving problems on beef operations compared with other regions.

Visit the NAHMS Web site at <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov> for the complete “Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2010” report as well as reports and information sheets on other NAHMS studies.

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